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NONFERROUS METAL ENTERPRISES MEET GOALS;
ARMENIAN COPPER INDUSTRY LAGS

/Numbers in parentheses refer to sources listed at the end./

Some nonferrous metal enterprises are fulfilling their production quotas, but the Armenian copper industry has failed to meet its plans.

Output of copper in the Armenian SSR during the third quarter 1949 increased 22 percent over the third quarter 1948, and copper enterprises have realized 5,600,000 rubles in accumulations since the beginning of the year. The present rate and level of production, however, is still below the goals set by the Party and government for the republic's copper enterprises.

The Fourth Plenum of the TsK KP(b) Armenia disclosed serious shortcomings in the industry. Despite substantial additions in material and technology, production plans for mining copper and for output of copper concentrate are not being fulfilled, and the mining rate lags far behind the processing rate. The Kafan and Shamsung mines are not supplying sufficient ore to provide capacity utilization of the Kafan Flotation Plant and the Alaverdi Copper-Smelting Plant.

One of the serious problems in the development of the copper industry is the extremely unsatisfactory condition of geological prospecting and mine-development work in individual mines. Directors of mine administrations have not yet overcome bottlenecks in the organization of labor, and several directors have assumed a conservative attitude toward disseminating highly-productive methods of work and new technology. Deviations from correct mining procedure have been allowed. Incorrect methods of blasting, for example, are widespread, with the subsequent waste of manpower. (1)

The Shamlug mines of the Alavardi Mine Administration fell considerably short of the third-quarter production plan both for mining ore and for mine-development operations, and the work was no better in October. The working front has been cut one third as compared with that of the second quarter

- 1 -

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because of production losses in September and October (2). As of 4 September, only 84 percent of the 7-month ore mining plan had been completed (3).

By 11 October, the Alaverdi Copper-Smelting Plant had not fulfilled the 9-month plan for production of blister copper or for reducing costs of electrolytic copper, and had almost halved production output per ruble of working capital. Only 77 percent of the plant's pieceworkers were meeting the norm.(4)

In September, the plant's converter division set a new record for production of blister copper. The entire operation, from charging the converter to the removal of the copper, was completed in 12 hours 5 minutes, a saving of 7 hours over the usual norm.(3) But in general, the converter division is not operating at full capacity and its productivity is low. Less than 60 percent of the capacity of the reverberatory furnace is being used.(4)

Recently, the Shamlug mines have been supplying the plant with copper ore which has a high quartz content, making processing difficult. The majority of pieceworkers in the copper blast furnace shop, including even the highly skilled foremen, have not been meeting norms for the past 15-16 months. Economic and technical workers have lowered norms for charging furnaces by 11 percent instead of devising changes in technology to take care of the problem.(5) Technology in the plant is outmoded, for, while it could cope with the previous shipments of ore with a high copper content from the Shamlug mines, it cannot meet the new conditions posed by the relatively high infusibility of the ore now received (3).

Worker training at the plant is on a low level. Some improvement is also needed in the supply of ore and concentrates from the Zangezur Mine Administration in Kafan. Rail shipments from there are extremely irregular (4).

By 26 October, the Alaverdi Plant had completed the 9-month plan both for gross production and for quantity of production and had exceeded the plan for labor productivity by 23.4 percent, although there was still a lag in utilizing equipment. Only 66 percent of the planned capacity of the metallurgical equipment was used in 1948 and only 59.7 percent in 9 months of 1949 (5).

The Kafenskiy and Alaverdskiy rayon Party organizations have not made Party control effective in copper enterprises. The Plenum of the TsK KP(b) Armenia has ordered Party and soviet organizations to work toward a further development of the republic's copper industry, in particular by increasing the mining and processing of copper in the Kafan and Alaverdi enterprises. Most necessary are wide-scale mechanization of labor-consuming processes in loading and collecting ore, introduction of core drilling in horizontal workings and wet drilling in all faces, and an increase in the rate of prospecting and development operations. To overcome the shortage of skilled personnel, mass training of workers, particularly drillers, timberers, loaders, and blasters, should be started and miners' living conditions improved.(1)

In Karaganda Oblast, Kazakh SSR, the Dzhezkazgan Copper Ore Combine has exceeded the 1950 ore-mining level, with particular success obtained by Mine No 31, largest in the combine. Pneumatic loaders are being used in all mine-development operations, and electric locomotives for underground hauling of ore have been introduced in Mines No 21, 15 and 4. The Karsakpay Copper-Smelting Plant in the same oblast has increased output considerably, recently achieving the highest production level for blister copper in its history.(6)

In the Urals, the Krasnoural'sk Copper-Smelting Plant, Sverdlovsk Oblast, made the following pledges in honor of Stalin's birthday on 21 December: to complete the 1949 plan for gross production by 15 December and for smelting copper by 25 December; to increase productivity of converters by 57 percent

- 2 -

SECRET

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SECRET

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over 1948; to increase productivity of sections of the concentration plant 12.5 percent by operating machinery at a higher speed; and to save 500,000 rubles by the end of the year. The Krasnoural'sk Copper Mine has pledged to complete the 1949 plan for mining and to produce several thousand tons of copper pyrites above the plan during December. The Degtyarka Copper Mine completed the 1949 gross-production plan on 30 November and the finished-goods production plan on 3 December, and has pledged to complete an augmented 1949 plan by 26 December.(7)

Other nonferrous metal enterprises throughout the USSR marked up considerable achievements in October and November.

The "Nikopol'-Manganets" Trust exceeded the 10-month plan for output of manganese concentrate. In comparison with 1948, output of concentrated ore has increased $1\frac{1}{2}$ times in the Manganets Basin. The concentrating plant at the basin's Mine imeni Maksimov delivered one trainload of ore above the 10-month plan.(8)

In the Georgian SSR, the "Chiaturmanganets" (Chiatura Manganese) Trust has substantially exceeded the prewar level for output of commercial manganese ore, particularly of first-grade washed ore. Mining and transport of the ore, excluding loading operations directly at the faces, is completely mechanized. Ore hauling in underground workings is done by electric locomotives and cableways, and transport of ore to railroad loading platforms is carried out over a multiple network of aerial cableways.

Several branches of production in the trust are still only partially mechanized, including the loading operations at the faces. These operations are mechanized to a certain degree in the Mines imeni Stalin and imeni Lenin. The least mechanized sector of the trust is the timbering, particularly the process of knocking out supports. Until recently, this work was done by hand, with the resultant loss of substantial amounts of support timber. Experiments in adapting new types of supports for working faces are now being conducted successfully. At the suggestion of G. Tsulikidze, Active Member, Academy of Sciences Georgian SSR, the trust is now using dismountable supports and a modernized type of support proposed by Engineer Sh. Sheklashvili, director of the trust. The use of these supports has resulted in considerable savings in support timber. Good results have been achieved in the tests made of a winch for knocking out supports from working faces. The winch was designed by Gukhrashvili, chief mechanical engineer, Mine Administration imeni Ordzhonikidze. The chief machine shops of the trust have started serial production of this new type of winch.(9)

The Ust'-Kamenogorsk Zinc Plant, Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast, is devising measures to improve utilization of the plant's area and equipment, following the recently opened drive of 88 Moscow enterprises to increase production with existing plant facilities. The plant's roasting shop has pledged to increase the productivity of the furnaces to 170 percent of their planned capacity by further mechanization and improvement in technology. The leaching shop, by improving productivity of its machinery, has already released some of its equipment for additional production and has pledged to increase the yield of solution by 10 percent per unit of equipment. The electrolytic shop is also introducing efficiency measures, as are the foundry, steam-compressor, and railroad shops. The machine shop plans to install new equipment by decreasing the area for each existing machine tool. The plant recently won second prize in the all-Union competition of the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry and the VTSSPS.(10)

The Donskoye Chromite Mine Administration, Aktyubinsk Oblast, Kazakh SSR, has completed the 1949 mining plan, having saved more than 1,400,000 rubles since the beginning of the year (11).

- 3 -

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The Severoural'sk Bauxite Mines, Sverdlovsk Oblast, have completed the 1949 plan for mining bauxite and for shipping ore to consumers. Underground mining of bauxite has almost doubled over 1948 and labor productivity is considerably above plan in all mines (12).

The Moscow Nonferrous Metals Processing Plant was awarded the Transferable Red Banner of the VTsSPS and the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry USSR for its success in the third-quarter all-Union competition. In 3 months, the aluminum shop produced 170 tons of metal instead of the pledged 60 tons. In 10 months the bronze and brass shop produced nearly 2,000 tons of metal above plan. The plant as a whole has pledged to produce 875 tons of metal above the 1949 plan (13). In 9 months of 1949, the plant produced more metal than during all of 1948 (14).

The Moscow Hard Alloys Combine (director, V. D. Blatov) has exceeded the 10-month plan, and its output has increased almost 25 percent over 1948. This year, the combine has saved more than 10 million rubles by decreasing production costs, and has released 7,600,000 rubles of working capital to the state bank. The plant has been awarded the Transferable Red Banner of the VTsSPS and the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry (15).

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9. Zarya Vostoka, No 201, 13 Oct 49
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- 4 -

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